

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07309 171144Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 EB-11 COME-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06

INT-08 CIEP-02 CEA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /156 W

----- 020366

R 171100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9424

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 7309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ERNG, BE

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN BELGIUM.

1. SPOT OFFERS OF CRUDE PETROLEUM: INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION (E.G. AMERICAN, DUTCH) OF MIDDLEMEN ARE REPORTEDLY FLOODING GOB WITH OFFERS OF CRUDE PETROLEUM. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE REFERRED THESE OFFERS TO LOCAL PETROLEUM COMPANIES WHO ARE RESISTING GOVERNMENT PRESSURE AND SO FAR REFUSING TO BUY. OFFERS ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND PRICES WIDELY VARYING (FOUR MILLION TONS EX PERSIAN GULF AT \$6.60; 1.8 MILLION TONS EX TUNISIA AT \$16.60). KNOWLEDGEABLE INDUSTRY SOURCE (HEAD OF AMERICAN COMPANY) SAYS PETROLEUM BEING OFFERED IS PARTICIPATION CRUDE FROM ARAB OIL PRODUCERS.

2. SOVIET SUPPLIES: THERE ARE INCREASING NUMBER OF REPORTS THAT SOVIETS HAVE RENEWED SHIPMENTS OF REFINED PRODUCTS TO THEIR BELGIAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 07309 171144Z

COMPANY NAFTA-B. NAFTA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN CALLING OTHER COMPANIES

AND OFFERING CRUDE PETROLEUM AND REFINED PRODUCTS AS WELL AS MAKING DIRECT APPROACHES TO LOCAL CUSTOMERS UNABLE TO OBTAIN SUPPLIES FROM THEIR REGULAR SUPPLIER. NAFTA SALES PITCH INVOLVES SIGNING OF FIVE YEAR CONTRACTS FOR CONSUMERS.

3. ROTTERDAM PIPELINE: ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY SOURCE WHO HELPED PREPARE IT, GOB FORWARDED LETTER TO ARAB OIL PRODUCERS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO USE ROTTERDAM PIPELINE FOR BELGIAN BOUND CRUDE PETROLEUM. LETTER DESCRIBES OPERATION OF PIPELINE AND PROVIDES GUARANTEES THAT NO INPUT WILL BE DIVERTED TO DUTCH USE. GOB MINFORAFFAIRS SOURCE TELLS US THAT ARAB PERMISSION TO USE PIPELINE BEING HELD UP PENDING SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE OVER ARAB INSISTENCE ON ON-SITE INSPECTORS.

4. LOCAL PETROLEUM STOCKS: SAME INDUSTRY SOURCES TELLS US LOCAL STOCK SITUATION DETERIORATING DRAMATICALLY. LOCAL LAW REQUIRES MAINTENANCE OF 65 DAYS OF YEARLY WEIGHTED AVERAGE. IN MID-NOVEMBER BELGIAN HELD STOCKS WERE EQUAL TO ABOUT 110 DAYS NORMAL WINTER USAGE BUT IN PAST FOUR WEEKS THEY HAVE DROPPED TO 55 DAYS AT PRESENT RATE OF CONSUMPTION. SITUATION APPARENTLY VERY BAD IN REGARD BUNKERING FUEL AT ANTWERP HARBOR WHERE BUNKERING FUEL ALREADY GOING FOR UP TO \$200 PER TON IN BLACK MARKET. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, SUPPLIES, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, BLACK MARKETS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE07309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731222/aaaaappj.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <15-Oct-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS IN BELGIUM.
TAGS: ENRG, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005